

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, appreciation is expressed to Examiners Kwak and Soohoo for the courtesy extended to the undersigned during the June 19, 2009 interview discussing this application. The substance of the interview is reflected in the following remarks.

Claim 1 is rejected based on the disclosure in Japanese Application Publication No. 2001-165390, hereinafter the Japanese Publication.

As discussed during the interview, the test paper at issue here is a porous membrane including a first layer with a surface having apertures thereat, and a second layer with a surface having apertures thereat. A test paper including these features is recited in pending Claim 1. As also discussed during the interview, the translated Japanese Publication instead discloses a test paper which is two porous membranes stacked one over the other. In view of these structural differences, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claim 1 is allowable over the disclosure in the Japanese Publication.

Moreover, Claim 1 is amended to more distinctly recite the above-noted structural difference. Specifically, Claim 1 is amended to recite that the apertures of the first layer and the apertures of the second layer are continuous apertures.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite that the first layer is located from the surface of the first layer within a range of $1/5$ to $1/2$ of a thickness of the porous membrane. This feature is clearly not disclosed in the Japanese Publication.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the Japanese Publication, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6, the other independent claim, is also rejected based on the disclosure in the Japanese Publication. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 is allowable over the Japanese Publication for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 is therefore also respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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